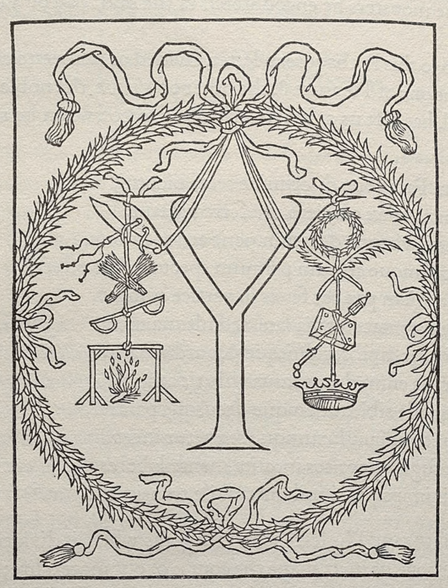
broad, offers a very easy passage, but at the very end there is much stumbling over many a sharp stone, huge rock, and steep cliff. Of a surety he who shall endure heat and cold, and such matters, to reach the side of Virtue, shall acquire all praise and all honour. But he who like a sluggard shall follow every sort of idleness and riotous living, whilst unthinkingly he shuns all toil & labour, he is all bemused that he remains infamous, poor, and wicked, and that he has passed his time wretchedly and employed it ill.'

LOOK well to it, therefore, O ye young children, & leave not behind you the knowledge of well-made letters—the true buckler against adversity and all ills, and the means to attain to the supreme felicity of this mortal life, which is perfect virtue; which at the last bestows upon us the prize of honour, the wreath & the palm, leaving the slothful & the vicious behind, to perish wickedly in their ordure & their execrable life.

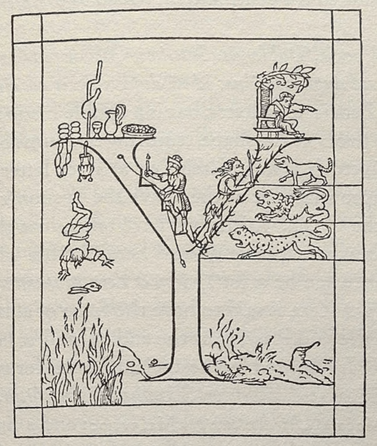


TO give you more clearly to understand this divine Pythagorean letter Ypsilon, I have drawn it for you once more. Imagine that

the upright and broadest limb is the road of Adolescence, the broader of the two arms the road of Pleasure, and the narrower arm the road of Virtue, to the end that you may make of it a guerdon of your good memory and virtuous contemplation, to hang in your study and closet.

LOOK upon the graceful & beautiful image that I have made for you, O young and excellent lovers of Virtue, and mark well how on the slope of the road of Pleasure I have drawn and attached a sword, a scourge, rods, a gibbet, & a flame, to show that at the end of Pleasure wait & follow all lamentable ills & grievous torments. On the side of the road of Virtue, I have made another slope, whereon I have placed and attached the figures of a laurel wreath, palm leaves, a sceptre, and a crown, to give it to be known and understood that from Virtue proceed all pure glory, all reward, all honour, and all royal preëminence.

I Have also drawn close by another figure allegorized in the ancient manner; you may make such profit of it as you can, taking in good part my humble diligence in giving you pleasure and honest service.



I Could say many other fine things, but for this time I will pass on, coming to design and describe the last letter of our Attic alphabet, Zeta, which Frere Lucas Paciolus did not include in his *Divina Proportione;* & the reason why he omitted it, I have never been able to understand, nor indeed do I care to know it.

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